

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-11

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ETRN, CO

SUBJECT: 1966 INTERNATIONAL LOAD LINE CONVENTION
CERTIFICATE PROBLEM

1. USCG HAS INFORMED THE DEPARTMENT THAT TWO INTERNATIONAL MARITIME CLASSIFICATION SOCIETIES, LLOYDS REGISTRY OF SHIPPING (UK) AND THE AMERICAN BUREAU OF SHIPPING (US), HAVE INADVERTENTLY ISSUED 1966 INTERNATIONAL LOAD LINE CONVENTION (ILLC) CERTIFICATES TO 23 COLOMBIAN FLAG VESSELS. COLOMBIA IS NOT A CONTRACTING PARTY TO CONVENTION WHICH INTER ALIA FORBIDS THE ISSUANCE OF ILLC CERTIFICATES TO VESSELS OF NONCONTRACTING NATIONS.

2. DEPARTMENT UNDERSTANDS THAT LLOYDS AND ABS HAVE DISCUSSED MATTER WITH GRANCO NEW YORK OFFICE. THE 1966 CERTIFICATES WILL BE REVOKED AND LOAD LINE CERTIFICATES UNDER THE 1930 FREEBOARDS AGREEMENT WILL BE ISSUED TOGETHER WITH USCG AUTHORIZED FORM B CERTIFICATES WHICH ARE GRANTED UNDER US DOMESTIC REGULATIONS TO VESSELS OF NONCONTRACTING NATIONS THAT CALL IN US WATERS. BOTH ABS AND LLOYDS HAVE

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ALSO REPORTEDLY SUGGESTED TO GRANCO THAT THE GOC MIGHT WISH TO REVIEW THE 1966 CONVENTION RE BECOMING PARTY THERETO.

3. WHILE MANY PARTIES TO 1966 ILLC CONTINUE TO RECOGNIZE 1930 CERTIFICATES, THE USG DOES NOT. THE USG RENOUNCED THE 1930 FREEBOARDS AGREEMENT ON RATIFICATION OF THE 1966 ILLC WHICH IS NOW US LAW. ONLY LATTER' S PROVISIONS AND CERTIFICATES NOW VALID IN US WATERS. FROM SAFETY STAND-POINT USG BELIEVES 1966 ILLC SUPERIOR TO 1930 AGREEMENT AS IT REQUIRES THE MASTER OF A VESSEL TO BE SUPPLIED SUFFICIENT INFORMATION TO ENABLE HIM TO ARRANGE THE LOADING AND BALLASTING OF HIS SHIPS IN SUCH A WAY AS TO AVOID THE CREATION OF ANY UNACCEPTABLE STRESSES IN THE SHIP' S STRUCTURE UNDER VARYING CONDITIONS OF SERVICE. FURTHERMORE, FOR SHIPPING COMPANIES THE CONVENTION HAS ADDED ADVANTAGE IN THAT IT PERMITS VESSELS TO BE LOADED DEEPER THAN UNDER 1930 AGREEMENT PROVISIONS.

4. FOREGOING INFORMATION IS PROVIDED TO EMBASSY IN CASE IT RECEIVES AN INQUIRY FROM GOC. EMBASSY MAY HOWEVER AT ITS DISCRETION DISCUSS SUBJECT INFORMALLY WITH GOC AUTHORITIES AND URGE GOC CONSIDER ADHERENCE TO 1966 ILLC. CIRCULAR AIRGRAM ON ADHERENCE TO 1966 ILLC BY NONCONTRACTING NATIONS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED SHORTLY TO APPROPRIATE EMBASSIES. RUSH

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